

**Position on the
Legislation to Implement the Blue Ribbon Commission Recommendations
(HB 2098 and SB 5930 as introduced at the Governor's request)**

The Puget Sound Health Alliance is a public-private collaborative of over 140 organizations plus individual consumers. We are focused on encouraging and rewarding effective, affordable health care to improve quality and result in healthier people and greater value for every dollar.

We support the Blue Ribbon Commission recommendations that seek to improve health care quality, value and effectiveness. Many provisions of HB2098 and SB5930 align with and would significantly assist the Alliance in carrying out its mission and purpose. The bills support the statewide expansion of the report on health care performance being produced by the Health Alliance; the use of evidence-based treatment guidelines; aligned incentives to encourage and reward improvement in health care; greater adoption of health information technology; and tools that support informed decision making about quality health care.

We believe that aligning incentives to reward quality and affordability, while encouraging innovation in the market, will improve overall value in health care. The Alliance strongly supports and encourages actions by elected officials and other public policy makers – at the state, county and city levels – to engage as public employers who purchase health care services. Examples include encouraging everyone to use the public report on health care performance (the first of which is expected to be published later this year); rewarding improved performance in health care quality and efficiency; and, leading by example in purchasing activities that apply aligned incentives to the health care provided to public employees and their family members.

We sincerely appreciate the continued professional and financial support from the State of Washington for the Alliance work to define, measure, report and reward high quality, efficient care. That support helps to ensure our collective success with the following initiatives:

- ✓ **Producing and updating publicly-available reports** on health care quality performance.
- ✓ **Adopting evidence-based treatment guidelines**, in collaboration with physicians and other medical leaders in the region, for health care professionals to use in treating patients.
- ✓ **Providing useful informational tools to help guide health care decision-making** for patients, providers, employers and other purchasers.
- ✓ **Creating incentives and breaking down barriers to encourage everyone to do their part.** Examples include patients improving personal health and managing chronic conditions. Doctors and hospitals can follow recommended guidelines and adopt health information technology. Employers, health plans and others can ensure that health benefits cover effective treatments, and recognize and reward providers for delivering high quality care (e.g., pay for performance).

For a list of our participants, see page 2. For more, go to www.pugetsoundhealthalliance.org

Employers, Other Purchasers and Unions

- Alaska Airlines
- The Boeing Company
- Carpenters Trusts of W. WA
- City of Everett
- City of Seattle
- Greater Seattle Chamber
- Horizon Air
- King County
- Pierce County
- Port Blakely Companies
- Puget Sound Energy
- Puget Sound Reg. Council
- REI
- Resource Corp. of America
- Snohomish County
- Starbucks
- Teamsters Taft-Hartley
- UFCW
- Washington Mutual Bank
- WA State Health Care Authority
- WA State Health Insurance Pool

Physicians, Other Health Professionals and Hospitals

- Assured Home Health & Hospice
- Auburn Internal Medicine Associates
- Bellevue Cardiology Clinic and Cardiac Strategies Co.
- Bastyr University
- Bellevue Urology Associates
- Cardiovascular Consultants
- Children's Hospital and Regional Medical Center
- Chiropractic Wellness Ctrs
- DaVita, Inc
- Donaldson Fitness & Physical Therapy
- The Everett Clinic
- Evergreen Healthcare
- 5th Ave Internal Medicine
- Inst of Complimentary Med.
- Kitsap Children's Clinic, LLP
- LabCorp - Dynacare NW
- Lakeshore Clinic
- Lakewood Orthopaedic Surgeons
- Minor & James Clinic
- MultiCare Medical Group
- NW Kidney Centers
- NW Physicians Network
- NW Weight Loss Surgery
- Nurse Practitioner Wellness Alliance
- Optimal Health Foundation
- Overlake Hospital Medical Center
- Overlake Surgery Center
- Pacific Medical Centers
- The Polyclinic
- Providence Health Sys/WA
- Puget Sound Cancer Ctrs
- Puget Sound Family Physicians
- Rockwood Family Medicine
- Seattle Primary Physicians
- Seattle Surgery Center
- Stevens Healthcare
- Sound Family Medicine
- Southlake Psychiatric Center
- Swedish Medical Center
- Tumor Institute Radiation Oncology Group, LLP
- UW Medicine
- Valley Medical Center
- Virginia Mason Medical Ctr
- Visiting Nurse Services of the Northwest
- WA Heart Care
- WA Managed Imaging
- Western WA Medical Grp
- Woodinville Pediatrics

Consumers

- Bailey, Ginette
- Baker, Neil
- Bell, Jonathan
- Blom, Dianna
- Cam, Kenneth
- Collier, Roger
- Conner, Christopher
- Cooper, Larry
- DuMond, S.D.
- Feld, Ron
- Feldbau, Gary
- Filbert, Carmen
- Greene, Tom
- Hollingsworth, Jan
- Janow, Jill
- Kievel, Patti
- Kosin, Linda
- Kosin, Mark
- Kulpa, Patty
- Low, Perry
- Lowe, Allison
- MacTavish, Sharon
- McCallum, Sharon
- Murphy, Kathleen
- O'Connor, Kathleen
- O'Farrell, Cathleen
- Peterson, Bruce
- Pflug, Cheryl
- Reiss, Tiffany
- Rueter, Sallie
- Sachter, Elaine
- Seelig, Michelle
- Thibaudeau, Pat
- Weber, David

Other Health-Related Organizations

- Adaptis
- Aetna Health Plans
- American Cancer Society
- American Heart Association & American Stroke Assn
- American Lung Assn of WA
- Assn of WA Healthcare Plans
- AstraZeneca LLC
- Benefits Resource Grp, Inc.
- Buckner Associates
- Byram Healthcare
- Caremark
- Cigna
- Community Health Innovations
- Community Health Plan/WA
- Complement. Healthcare Plans
- Express Scripts, Inc.
- First Choice Health
- Found for Health Care Quality
- Free & Clear
- GlaxoSmithKline
- Group Benefits Strategies
- Group Health
- HealthTrans
- Home Care Assn of WA
- Hope Heart Institute
- Ingenix
- Inland NW Health Services
- Johnson & Johnson
- King County Medical Society
- KPS Health Plan
- Law Firm Technology Specialists
- LifeWise Health Plan
- Mercer HR Consulting
- Merck & Co., Inc.
- Milliman
- Molina Healthcare of WA
- Novartis Pharmaceutical
- Novo Nordisk, Inc.
- OneHealthPort
- Outcome Concept Systems
- Pacific Hospital Preservation & Development Authority
- Pacific NW Research Inst.
- PacificCare
- Parker, Smith & Feek, Inc.
- Physical Therapy Assn / WA
- Premera Blue Cross
- Qualis Health
- Quest Diagnostics
- Regence BlueShield
- Rialto Communications
- Sanofi-Aventis
- SonoSite, Inc.
- Snohomish Medical Society
- Uniprise (United Health)
- WA Acad of Family Physicians
- WA Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine Association
- WA Ambul. Surgery Ctr Assn
- WA Assn of Naturopathic Physicians
- WA Biotech & Biomedical Assn
- WA Dental Service
- WA Health Care Forum
- WA Health Foundation
- WA State Department of Health
- WA State Hospital Association
- WA State Medical Association
- WA State Nurses Association
- WA State Medical Oncology Soc
- WA State Pharmacy Association
- Wellspring Family Services EAP
- Zenith Administrators